

Mr. President, I salute Hitchiner Manufacturing Company, Inc. and commend their president, John Morison, for his innovative ideas and spirit of community. It is an honor to represent them in the United States Senate.●

SOUTH CAROLINA PEACHES

● Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize South Carolina's peach farmers for their hard work and their delicious peaches.

My staff has been delivering South Carolina peaches to offices throughout the Senate and the U.S. Capitol all day. Thanks to South Carolina peach farmers, those of us here in Washington will be able to cool off from the summer heat with delicious South Carolina peaches.

For a relatively small state, South Carolina is second in the nation in peach production. In fact, this year farmers across South Carolina planted more than 16,000 acres of peaches. As my colleagues can attest, these are some of the finest peaches produced anywhere in the United States.

As we savor the taste of these South Carolina peaches, we should remember the work and labor that goes into producing such a delicious fruit. While Americans enjoy peaches for appetizers, entrees, and desserts, most do not stop to consider where they come from. Farmers will be laboring all summer in the heat and humidity to bring us what we call the "perfect candy." What else curbs a sweet tooth—is delicious, nutritious, and satisfying, but not fattening? The truth is, Mr. President, that our farmers are too often the forgotten workers in our country. Through their dedication and commitment, our nation is able to enjoy a wonderful selection of fresh fruit, vegetables, and other foods. In fact, our agricultural system, at times, is the envy of the world.

Mr. President, as Senators and their staff feast on these delicious peaches, I hope they will remember the people in South Carolina who made this endeavor possible: David Winkles and the entire South Carolina Farm Bureau; and the South Carolina Peach Council. They have all worked extremely hard to ensure that the Senate gets a taste of South Carolina.

I hope everyone in our Nation's Capitol will be smiling as they enjoy the pleasure of South Carolina peaches.●

TRIBUTE TO TOM RECHTIN, SR.

● Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a fine Kentucky businessman, Tom Rechtin, Sr., President of Tom Rechtin Heating, Air Conditioning and Electric Company.

Tom was recently named "1999 Outstanding Business Person" by the Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce for his community leadership

and 35 years of education advocacy. The honor was given as part of the A.D. Albright awards program, which is named for Northern Kentucky University's president emeritus, who was known for encouraging educational excellence in the region.

The Albright Award recognizes Tom's commitment to supporting and encouraging educational activities in the workplace and in the community. His own company serves as a model for his philosophy, as his employees attend and participate in numerous classes and seminars he facilitates. Tom Rechtin's company also employs student interns who are seeking certification.

Tom was also recently named the "1998 National Contractor of the Year" by the National Association of Plumbing, Heating and Cooling Contractors, and "Kentucky Contractor of the Year" by the Kentucky Association of Plumbing, Heating and Cooling Contractors.

Tom began working in the industry after high school and, over the years, moved through the ranks from an entry-level position to eventually owning his own company. Today, Tom is one of the most well-known and well-respected businessmen in the state, with over 12,000 customers in Northern Kentucky, Eastern Indiana, and Southern Ohio.

Tom is a three-time appointee by the Governor to the Kentucky HVAC Licensing Board, which oversees the licensing and continuing education programs for the state's HVAC journeymen and Master License holders. He has been an example to board members and the entire industry by implementing his own rigorous employee training programs. His leadership and success in the field is one of the reasons Tom has been named Vice President of the Kentucky HVAC Licensing Board.

My colleagues and I congratulate you, Tom, on your recent accomplishments and commend your many years of service to Northern Kentucky's business community. Best wishes for many years of continued success.

Mr. President, I ask that the following Campbell County Recorder article from June 17, 1999, be printed in the RECORD.

The article follows:

[From the Campbell County Recorder, June 17, 1999]

CHAMBER ANNOUNCES ALBRIGHT WINNERS TOM RECHTIN

This year's Outstanding Business Person recipient, Tom Rechtin, has been a community leader, role model and an advocate for education for more than 35 years. Rechtin has used his personal and professional experience, knowledge and ability to include others to advance the educational system and consequently the economy in Northern Kentucky.

This recipient of the Albright Award encourages employees to attend certification

classes, participate in seminars and get involved in company educational programs. He provides tuition assistance for employees and currently employs four student interns who are seeking certification.

He supports education within his company and is an educational advocate in the community. Coupled with Cincinnati Public Schools, he helped found the first apprenticeship and continuing education program in the Tristate. Along with the Northern Kentucky Home Builders Association, he helped develop the first heating and cooling apprenticeship program in Northern Kentucky, and as chairman of the apprenticeship committee, he continues to develop new programs and lead efforts to fund the program.

Further, Rechtin is a member of the Kentucky State Licensing Board, serves on a Citizens Task Force aimed at evaluating and improving Bellevue Schools, and founded SMART TECH—a class that is offered at NKU annually to journeymen to meet state licensing requirements. Most recently, he sought to carry out a federal School-To-Work federal initiative promoting schools and businesses to share knowledge and develop practical curriculums for students entering the workforce.

Outside of his work with education and his company, he is a member of the Chamber of Commerce's Workforce Readiness Council, a Master with the Boy Scouts of America, an athletic sponsor with the Bellevue Vets, a member of the Bellevue Renewal Committee and a council member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

The Chamber of Commerce is the largest volunteer business organization in Northern Kentucky. It works to encourage and promote economic well being, quality growth and community development for both Northern Kentucky and the region.●

TRI-CITIES, TN-VA: 1999 RECIPIENT OF THE ALL-AMERICA CITY AWARD

● Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, when our Founding Fathers began their fight for our Nation's independence, they had a vision of what America would be like. They saw a free and self-reliant people, ruled by State and local governments, who took responsibility for their own welfare and progress, and cared for themselves and for others in their own communities.

When Alexis de Tocqueville came to America almost a century later, that is what he saw. He later wrote that, in America, when a citizen saw a problem that needed solving, he would cross the street and discuss it with a neighbor, together the neighbors would form a committee, and before long the problem would be solved. "You may not believe this," he said, "but not a single bureaucrat would ever have been involved."

While today our citizens are increasingly ruled, not by local governments, but by Washington, the essence of what it means to be an American has not changed: We are a people willing to lend a hand, lift a spirit, and work together to make our land a better place.

For 50 years, the All-America City Awards have designated—from among all the cities in America—10 communities that have carried on this time-

honored tradition and kept the spirit of America alive. And I'm proud to say that among this year's winners is Tri-Cities, TN-VA, a place our founding fathers would recognize as a fulfillment of their vision of what a free people, living and working together, can accomplish.

Among the criteria by which all participants were judged were citizen involvement, effective government performance, philanthropic and volunteer resources, a strong capacity for cooperation, and community vision and pride. And, Tri-Cities—the first-ever region to be so honored by this award—possesses those qualities in spades.

Included in the presentation which tipped the judges' decision in their favor were their efforts to involve youth in the decision-making process; improve health care in isolated communities and create an interest in rural medicine among future physicians; and celebrate and preserve the Appalachian region's oral and musical traditions. And they did it all without government handouts or mandates from Washington. Their message, set to the sound of bluegrass music: we are willing to work; we are willing to lead.

I think the song, written by a local storyteller and sung by all the Tri-Cities delegates, says it all:

If you call, we will answer;
If you need us, we will come.
We'll lend a hand—there's strength in numbers;

If we work together, we can get it done.

Mr. President, on behalf of all the people of Tennessee, and all Americans everywhere, I congratulate the citizens of Tri-Cities, Tennessee-Virginia for their accomplishment. Not only they, but all of us, are winners because of their efforts.●

CLEVELAND SCHOLARSHIP AND TUTORING PROGRAM

● Mr. VOINOVICH. Mr. President, today I rise to recognize the achievements of the Cleveland Scholarship and Tutoring Program. Now in its third school year, this program, which is one of only two school choice experiments in the country, continues to offer hope and promise to nearly 3,700 inner city children and their parents by making private schools, including religious schools, affordable. I have been a long-time supporter of the Scholarship Program, as well as the school choice concept in general. Believing that competition fosters improvement, I made the implementation of this pilot school scholarship plan one of my education reform priorities by signing a 2-year budget package that included \$5 million for the introduction of the program in 1995.

The Cleveland Scholarship Program is the first of its kind in the country that offers state-funded scholarships for use at both secular and religious

private schools, giving low-income students access to an otherwise unattainable private school education in Cleveland, where schools graduate a mere 36 percent of its high school seniors. In September of 1996, during its first school year, the program provided scholarships to approximately 1,855 students for the public, private, or religious school of their choice. Recent growth of the program's budget enabled the parents of nearly 3,700 students to use vouchers to enroll in 59 participating area schools during the 1998-1999 school year.

Two separate studies by Harvard University on the Cleveland Scholarship Program found parents of voucher recipients were more satisfied with many aspects of their school than were parents of students in Cleveland public schools. That satisfaction included the school's academic program, school safety, school discipline, teacher skills, the teaching of moral values, and class size. A separate study found that test score results in mathematics and reading show substantial gains for Cleveland Scholarship Program students attending the Hope schools, two non-sectarian schools which were created in response to the establishment of the program. Additionally, parents of voucher recipients reported lower levels of disruption in their child's school—including fighting, racial conflict, and vandalism.

The results of these studies further underscore the success of this program. Time and again, data and surveys from the state have confirmed the Cleveland Scholarship Program meets the one true test of any taxpayer-supported program—it works. Although the program is not without its critics, I believe the best way to put these criticisms to rest is to continue demonstrating the program's effectiveness in Cleveland as we continue to look beyond the conventional and pursue creative and imaginative approaches to education.

I applaud the achievements of the Cleveland Scholarship Program and its contributions to the education of our children, and am proud to say that my hometown serves as a model for the rest of the Nation.●

TRIBUTE TO CHRISTOPHER R. ROVZAR ON BEING NAMED PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLAR

● Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Christopher R. Rovzar, of Exeter, New Hampshire, for being selected as a 1999 Presidential Scholar by the U.S. Secretary of Education.

Of the over 2.5 million graduating seniors nationwide, Christopher is one of only 141 seniors to receive this distinction for academics. This impressive young man is well-deserving of the title of Presidential Scholar. I wish to

commend Christopher for his outstanding achievement.

As a student at Phillips Exeter Academy in New Hampshire, Christopher has served as a role model for his peers through his commitment to excellence. Christopher's determination promises to guide him in the future.

It is certain that Christopher will continue to excel in his future endeavors. I wish to offer my most sincere congratulations and best wishes to Christopher. His achievements are truly remarkable. It is an honor to represent him in the United States Senate.●

IN RECOGNITION OF REAR ADMIRAL LEONARD VINCENT, SUPPLY CORPS, U.S. NAVY

● Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I recognize and honor Rear Admiral Leonard Vincent, U.S. Navy as he retires upon completion of 32 years of service to the Navy, The Department of Defense and the Nation.

Born in Tulsa, Oklahoma, a graduate of McAlester High School, Oklahoma he enlisted in the Navy Reserve in 1961. He graduated from Southeastern State College, Durant, Oklahoma, in 1965 and received his commission as a Ensign in the Navy Supply Corps that same year. In 1976 he received his Masters in Business Administration from George Washington University.

A distinguished professional, Admiral Vincent currently commands the Defense Systems Management College (DSMC). As the Commandant of DSMC, he has been a leader of change agents for acquisition reform. And he has brought a wealth of acquisition, logistics, and contract management experience to the vital task of training our nation's Department of Defense Acquisition Workforce.

Afloat he has served as the Supply Officer of an amphibious ship, the USS *Pensacola* (LSD 38) and the Supply Officer of a submarine tender, the USS *Dixon* (AS 37).

Ashore his assignments have included duty as Supply Officer with Naval Special Warfare Group and with Naval Inshore Warfare Command, Atlantic, both in Little Creek, Virginia.

His varied acquisition assignments include Director of Contracts, Naval Supply Center, Puget Sound; Contracting Officer for the Supervisor, Shipbuilding and Repair, Bath, Maine; Director of the Combat Systems department and Director of the Contracts department at the Navy's inventory control point, Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania; Assistant Commander for Contracts, Naval Air Systems Command; Deputy Director for Acquisition for the Defense Logistics Agency; and prior to his current assignment, RADM Vincent was the Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics, Fleet Supply and Ordnance, Pacific Fleet.